

*Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities*

*Commemoration of*

**DISABILITY HISTORY AND EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH**

- WHEREAS, people with physical, psychological, sensory, and intellectual disabilities are the largest minority group with a national population of 52 Million, and a Seattle population of over 167,000, and people with disabilities are immigrants and refugees, of all gender expressions, races, and ethnicities; and*
- WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history, people with disabilities have endured discrimination and mistreatment, including denial of medical and psychological care, forced segregation in institutions without opportunity to be reintegrated into their communities or to live independently, involuntary sterilization and other forced treatments, and denial of equal opportunity in education, housing, and employment; and*
- WHEREAS, despite enactment of local, state, and federal laws recognizing the civil rights of people with disabilities, the legacies of discrimination and exclusion continue and individuals with disabilities still experience unemployment and poverty at rates substantially higher than those without disabilities; and*
- WHEREAS, no individual should face unnecessary barriers to success, and we are stronger when our city, our state, and our economy can benefit from the talents and energy of all our residents; and*
- WHEREAS, throughout the history of this nation, state, and city, people with disabilities have provided leadership, creativity, and hard work, and by their accomplishments have enriched the entire community; and*
- WHEREAS, October has been designated as National Disability Employment Awareness Month; and*
- WHEREAS, the Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities works to promote full participation of people with disabilities into all areas of economic, political, and community life in the City of Seattle;*
- NOW THEREFORE, the Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities Commemorates October 2011 as*

**DISABILITY HISTORY AND EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH**

*Mary Beth Lum*

Mary Beth Lum  
Co-Chair

*Patricia Copeland*

Patricia Copeland  
Co-Chair